

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 4, 8, 13 and 17 are amended and claim 21 is added. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Shikhman and Liu in the May 9, 2007 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification due to informalities. The specification is amended to obviate the objections. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claim 4 due to informalities. Claim 4 is amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,887,073 to Fazzari et al. (Fazzari). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "data of the one or more assigned binary foreground planes and the grayscale background plane are compressed by applying separate compression algorithms to each binary foreground plane data and grayscale background plane data." Independent claim 8 recites, *inter alia*, "compressing data of the one or more assigned binary foreground planes and the grayscale background plane by applying separate compression algorithms to each binary foreground plane data and grayscale background plane data." Independent claims 13 and 17 similarly recite the feature of claim 8. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0148] and Fig. 20.

As discussed during the May 9 personal interview, Fazzari fails to teach or suggest that data of the one or more assigned binary foreground planes and the grayscale background plane are compressed by applying separate compression algorithms to each binary foreground plane data and grayscale background plane data. Accordingly, Fazzari fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of claims 1, 8, 13 and 17.

For at least these reasons and as acknowledged during the May 9 personal interview, independent claims 1, 8, 13 and 17 and the claims dependent therefrom are patentable over the applied reference. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim 21

Claim 21 is added. Support for claim 21 can be found in the specification at, for example, Fig. 20 and paragraph [0147]. Claim 21 is patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1 from which it depends, as well as for the additional features it recites.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 11, 2007

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